

Hong Kong Gardening Society

Weekend in an ancient Chinese Village

18 – 19 August 2018

(To be finalized)

Itinerary

Saturday **18 August 2018** *Depart Hung Hom by High Speed train*

Arrive Dongguan

Met on arrival and transfer to Nanshe Village for lunch

Sunday **19 August 2018** *After a leisurely breakfast proceed to the Keyuan Garden*

Lunch at a local restaurant

Continue to Dongguan Station

Depart Dongguan by train

Arrive Hung Hom, Hong Kong



Nanshe Village



Nanshe Village is considered to be perhaps the most beautiful village in Guangdong Province. It is a rare privilege to be able to actually stay the night in such a beautiful and ancient place.

Whilst the accommodation in the village is comfortable, those seeking more luxury may prefer to stay at a nearby 4 Star hotel, only a short walk from Nanshe Village.

An oasis of ancient beauty, Nanshe Ming and Qing ancient village survives in the midst of typical modern urban ugliness in the vast industrial city of Dongguan.

It is undoubtedly one of the best maintained, authentic Ming and Qing Dynasty villages, in China. According to the records of the Xie family, the village came into being at the end of the Song Dynasty (960 – 1279).

The Xie clan had been trying to move further south but their march was halted by war. They eventually settled in the area that would become Nanshe Village.

Over the next seven hundred years, the village grew to cover an area of nearly one hundred thousand square meters.



The village is laid out symmetrically like clasping palms and is centred around a rectangular pool with twenty five temples and over two hundred houses.

The village still houses a number of well-preserved buildings that offer a rare insight into life during the late Ming and early Qing Dynasties. The most famous sites are The Fortified Wall, The Grand Memorial Temple of the Xie Clan and The Temple of The Hundred Year Old Man.

Built in 1664, The Ancient Fortified Wall was originally nine hundred and ninety eight meters long. The Wall succeeded in stopping invaders led by Li Wanrong, who lay a seven day siege in 1668, and Liu Jin, who attacked the village in 1671. Now only a few passages and a couple of towers remain of the wall that once protected the villagers.

The Great Ancestral Temple of the Xie Family was built in honour of the clan who settled Nanshe. In the courtyard one can still see carvings, while inside the temple there are stone inscriptions that were made in 1555.

The story of Xie Yanqing, who lived to the age of one hundred, became one of legends in Nanshe Village. After his death his house was rebuilt and turned into The Temple of The Hundred Year Old Man in his honour. The stone tablet that tells Yangqing's story can still be found inside the temple.

The Hundred Year Old Couple Archway, Ancestral Temple of Xie Yuqi and the Zi Zheng Mansion are other buildings worth visiting. Nanshe is home to many more buildings and it is well worth spending time exploring this ancient village.

The Keyuan Garden



The Keyuan Garden, one of the Guangdong Province's Four Classic Gardens of the Qing Dynasty. It was built between 1850 and 1858, by Zhang Jingxiu, a deposed high ranking military officer who had been appointed by the emperor. The Garden became the foremost gathering place of intellectuals at that time and the two scholars, Ju Lian and Ju Chao, who started the Lingnan (South China) painting school, lived in the Keyuan Garden for ten years. This made the Garden the most significant of the four Gardens because it was the cradle of the famous Lingnan painting school and ultimately the Lingnan school of garden architecture.

Built in the classical style, the garden can be generally divided into four parts: three building groups and a yard.

The southeast building group is the place for welcoming guests; the west building group, with many pavilions, is the place for feasting and viewing; and the north building group is the place prepared for the owner to reside, paint, parade and recite poetry. While in the middle, there is a big courtyard circled by these three groups.



A long corridor connects the three building groups together closely and visitors will encounter beautiful scenes of the garden.

As with other gardens in southern China, the buildings, the flowers, the hills and the lakes in the Keyuan Garden blend with the surroundings harmoniously.

Sign-up.

The cost will be **HK\$2650 per person (twin sharing) for members**. Single Room Supplement is **HK\$300**

Please note that this cost is based upon a minimum of 12 people signing up. **Non-members/guests pay HK\$3250** (plus single supplement @ HK\$300, if applicable) but this includes membership of the HKGS for the current year (2018).

A final quotation will be provided (should the number not reach 12) on the ____ August 2018 for your consideration.

The tour price covers:

1. Hung Hom / Dongguan / Hung Hom rail ticket
2. Local transportation
3. 1 night accommodation in Dongguan Fangzhong Sunshine Hotel (<http://www.fangzhongsunshinehotel.com>) with breakfast
4. 3 Chinese meals with soft drink
5. Entrance tickets to local sightseeing as per the itinerary
6. English speaking guide
7. All tipping

The tour price does not include:

- a. Transportation to and from the coach boarding point or bus terminal prior to the commencement or after the completion of the tour program.
- b. Transportation / Accommodation /Sightseeing /Meals not as listed in the itinerary.
- c. Visa Fees: Please make sure that you have got your valid passport and visa before your entry to China.
- d. Personal expenses such as room service, internet charge, laundry, alcoholic drinks or beverages for personal consumption, fax, telephone call, optional activities, etc.
- e. Excess Handling and Insurance Charges.
- f. Insurance. Please kindly note that the full coverage travel insurance from your country of origin should be purchased in advance on your own.
- g. 4% surcharge if you pay by credit card

If you would like to sign up in this tour, please complete the required information in this email - click doris.leung@jebsenholidays.com. This email link will also go automatically to Jessica, Ash, Doris and Graham

The Closing Date is **3rd August 2018**

Let me know if you have any questions or if we can assist in any way.

Many thanks,

Jessica Park,
Chair
chair@hkgardeningsociety.org

Places we will visit...

